

FREE!

FIRST PRIZE



This Beautiful \$350 Piano.

FOURTH PRIZE



Genuine Cut-Glass Water Set.

FIFTH PRIZE



Beautiful Bracelet Watch

FREE!

SECOND PRIZE

Genuine
Diamond Ring

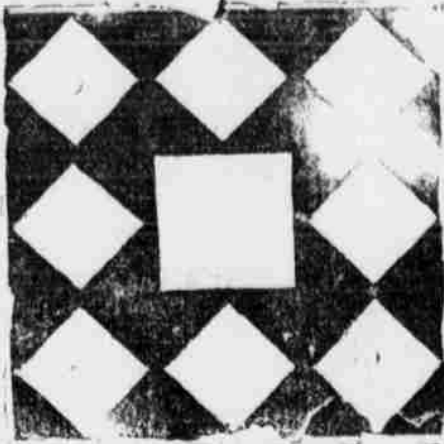


To further advertise our pianos and our Hastings, Grand Island Kearney and North Platte Stores we are going to give away absolutely FREE these valuable Premiums. It costs nothing to enter this contest—Everyone has an equal opportunity. Every person answering will receive a premium. Mail or bring your answer in at once.

CAN YOU SOLVE IT?

Instructions.

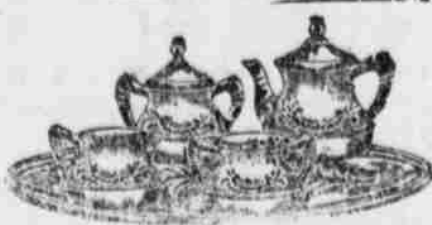
Take any number from 1 to 12 inclusive. Place numbers around 7 in the center square, one number in each of other squares so that when they are added perpendicularly or horizontally the total



make 21. Do not use any number more than twice. It is not necessary to use this paper.

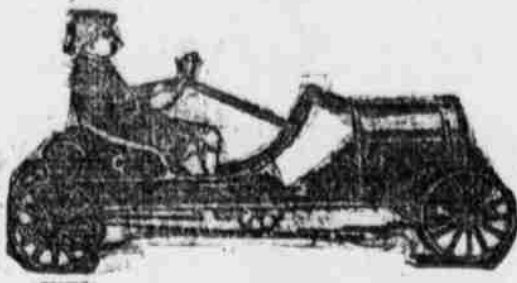
FREE!

THIRD PRIZE



This Beautiful Four Piece Tripple Plate Gold Lined Tea Set.

SIXTH PRIZE



This Boy's and Girl's Pedal Mobile.

SEVENTH PRIZE



This Lady's or Gentleman's Gold Watch Guaranteed Twenty Years.

For the Correct or Nearest Correct Solution

To the above we will give absolutely FREE, the \$350 Piano. The next best a Genuine Diamond Ring. The next best a Silver Tea Set. The next best a Lady's Gold Bracelet Watch. The next best a Pedal Mobile. The next best a Lady's or Gentleman's Gold Watch. The next five nearest correct solutions will receive orders for vouchers for \$115. The next five credit vouchers for \$110. The next five credit vouchers for \$105. And all persons answering the puzzle will receive a credit voucher for at least \$25 good only as part payment on a new piano or player piano also choice of Kitchen Set, Jewel Case, Lady's Bar Pin or Cuff Buttons; and should there be more than one correct answer, or two or more tie in being correct in their solutions, awards will then be made to the contestant presenting his or her solution displayed in the most attractive manner, and of greatest value from an advertising viewpoint. Only one person in a family can enter. Contestants will be notified by mail and all premiums must be called for within ten days from the closing of the contest. We want to assure you that everyone entering this contest has an equal opportunity of securing one of the largest premiums. The judges will be three disinterested men Hastings, Neb. Don't delay answering, but send your solution today. CONTEST CLOSING JANUARY 8, 1916, at 6 p. m. Mail or bring your answers before that date.

ADDRESS MANUFACTURER'S ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

GASTON MUSIC COMPANY

HASTINGS, NEBRASKA

LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Axtell have gone to Lincoln for a visit of two weeks.

Mrs. E. W. Mann, who has been seriously ill for some time, is much improved.

Gilbert Peters left yesterday morning for Laramie to visit friends for a few days.

One-Fifth off on Dry Goods at Wilcox Department Store.

The Mid-West-Poultry Show opened at Kearney yesterday with six hundred entries.

A baby boy was born a few days ago to Mr. and Mrs. James Campbell of the Fourth ward.

The Belden home on west Eighth street was quarantined for small pox Wednesday morning.

The Bible Class of District No. 1 will meet with Mrs. Banks Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

For Rent—Rooms for light house-keeping. Inquire at this office.

Riley Warren returned Wednesday evening from a two weeks' visit in Chicago and Excelsior Springs.

Marcell Kellher and sisters, of Chicago, came a few days ago to visit their uncle Albert Schatz.

Calvin Miller, who is a student of the Kearney schools, is spending this week with friends in town.

Manager Garman has booked Oscar Figman in "A Pair of Sixes", for Thursday evening, January 13th.

The domestic science department of the Twentieth Century club will meet Monday with Mrs. I. L. Stebbins.

Arthur and Marie McCabe, who have been visiting their parents during the holidays, will leave Sunday evening.

Miss Beryl Hahn will return Sunday evening from Lincoln where she has been visiting relatives for two weeks.

Henry Marriet, of Portland, Ore., arrived here yesterday afternoon to visit his nephew W. L. Richards and wife.

Rev. Barton has returned from Brady where he conducted the funeral of the late Mrs. Layton the first of the week.

L. A. Monroe, of Kansas City, who has been assisting his brother W. A. Monroe for several weeks, left a few days ago.

Supt. Frank Smith, of the Sutherland schools, is transacting business at the county superintendent's office this week.

Miss Nevada Coates and brother Harold returned Wednesday from Sutherland where they visited their father for a week.

Postmaster Davis resumed work at his desk yesterday after being confined to the house for several days with gripe.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Allen, of Farnam, came yesterday morning to visit their son Arthur Allen and family for a week or more.

Mr. and Mrs. Verne Mann are enjoying a visit from the latter's sister Miss Lillian Eaton, of Denver, who formerly lived here.

Mrs. Albert Muldoon is expected to return today from Rockwell, Iowa, where she was called recently by the death of her mother.

William Norris, Ernest Rincker and Milledge Bullard will return to the state university tomorrow, after visiting the home folks during the holidays.

Maurice Fowler came up from Grand Island the early part of the week and purchased a car of horses which he shipped out yesterday.

Miss Ada Arnell, of Omaha, formerly a registered nurse of this city, is spending this week here on a special case at the North Platte General hospital.

One-Tenth off on Groceries at Wilcox Department Store.

Miss Hilda Anderson, who has been off duty as stenographer in the office of Judge French for several weeks on account of sickness, will resume work Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Miller returned to their home in Clinton, Iowa, yesterday after visiting their daughters Mesdames Robert Owens and A. S. James for some time.

Found—A pocketbook containing a sum of money. Owner can have same by proving property and paying for this notice. Inquire of A. F. Blankenburg, 1305 North Locust St. 10012

Among those who were obligated into the Yeoman lodge Tuesday evening were C. W. Edwards, W. J. McHugh, Jesse Van Dyke, J. M. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Kemper, Ira Simpson and Ellen Edwards.

Automobile owners who fail to pay their license today are subject to a fine sufficient in amount to buy a couple hundred gallons of gasoline. Many owners called at the treasurer's office yesterday and liquidated.

Mrs. Raymond Keegan, of Fremont, came last evening to visit her sister Mrs. Jack Carroll. Mrs. Keegan was formerly Miss Tyrone Winkelman and was secretly married on July 5th. The marriage was announced last week. Mr. Keegan is associated in business with his father in Fremont.

Wanted—Girl or elderly woman for general housework in small family. Good wages to right party. Apply at this office or send application to P. O. box 394, city.

The advance agent for "The Birth of a Nation" was in town Wednesday for the purpose of trying to make arrangements for presenting the film at the Keith, but owing to other bookings three nights he desired could not be given. This movie has been in Omaha for a number of weeks and is one of the greatest pictures yet presented, and at the same time the one most severely criticized. Had the picture been shown here the admission would have been one dollar.

Piano at a Bargain.

Customer near North Platte is unable to finish payments on piano contract. We will turn piano over to first satisfactory party who will pay balance either cash or five dollars per month. Write Schmoller & Mueller Piano Co., Omaha, Neb.

For Sale.
Good gentle family milk cow. 504 south Willow. Phone Black 716. 5117

VEST POCKET ESSAY ON "PLATTE RIVER"

One of the last "vest pocket essays" written by George Fitch, the humorist, before his death, had for its subject the Platte River. Some of his remarks are a little extravagant which was characteristic of all his essays, but they make interesting reading. This is what he had to say about the Platte:

The careful student of American wonders should not overlook the Platte river.

It is very easy to do this, especially in summer time when the Platte has a habit of playing hide and seek with a spectator, which is embarrassing in the extreme.

The Platte is an elongated strip of dampness extending from the Missouri river to the Yellowstone Park. It is 1,600 miles long, a mile wide, and as deep as one of the new ditches.

This is what makes the Platte famous. Many another river is a mile wide, but no other on earth spreads so little water over so wide a territory. A heavy dew in Nebraska makes high water in the Platte. It squats on 5,000 square miles of prairie land—enough to support the population of Ireland—and produces only an imposing waste of sandbars and snags with about as much water running between the sandbars as a chaser for a thirsty man in New York.

It is a shocking waste—as shocking as the devoting of the vast resources of a great university to the education of a downy-brained young man who has not yet succeeded in learning 30 per cent of the ten commandments.

The Platte is a great river in the spring, and awes the spectator by its breadth and majesty. But it is not highly valued in Nebraska, because when it is most needed it isn't there. It is like the young recruit from the bush league, who bats .400 in the spring practice and then strikes out four times hand-running with men on bases, after the season opens. As a river it is the poorest pinch hitter in the world. The Platte goes dry on the first hot day, and has to depend on wells for its moisture the rest of the summer.

Many movements for the abolishing of the Platte have been started, but have failed because of the opposition of the bridge companies. It is the thinnest excuse for a bridge in existence but one of the most effective.

Jim Keefe's Poetical Lament.
City Attorney James T. Keefe, who has been spending the holidays in Sioux City, found time hanging heavily last Tuesday, so dashed off the following lament and sent it to a North Platte friend. We have always insisted that Mr. Keefe should devote his time to cultivating the muses instead of prosecuting city cases in Magistrate Miltenberger's court and sending plain drunks to jail, but he is contrary and perverse and says he will never be satisfied until he sits on the bench as a supreme judge of the United States. But the verses:
The Kaiser's cow is grazing now
Where the shamrock used to grow,
How long she'll pasture on the green,
There's no one seems to know.
But if we can judge the future,
By what's happened long ago,
There'll be no grass for Pat's jackass
Where the shamrock used to grow.

Oh, Johnny Bull! Oh, Johnny Bull!
What are you going to do;
You said that you could whip the Dutch,
And now it's up to you.
There is one thing that you should know,
They'll be raising plants for sauer kraut
Where the shamrock used to grow.

Speakers at Banquet
At the stag banquet of the Elks tomorrow evening O. E. Elder will preside as toastmaster and the subjects and speakers will be as follows:
"The Piscatorial Art"—Dave Day.
"Just Talk—Pugilistic and Otherwise"—Thos. F. Healey.
"The Art of Bachelorhood"—Loren P. Sturges.
"Good of the Order"—Peter J. Barton.

The menu will be served by Caterer Hupfer and reads like this: olives, radishes, oyster cocktail, Saratoga wafers, deviled crabs, tartar sauce, roast young turkey with Hanover sauce, cranberry jelly, snowflake potatoes en form, June peas en cases, Waldorf salad, hot mince pie, brandy sauce, Edam cheese, wafers, cafe noir.

For the banquet more than 125 tickets at \$2.50 each have been sold.

The Lincoln Highway Movie
A. B. Hoagland, Lincoln county consul for the Lincoln Highway, has been notified that the moving picture film showing scenes along the Lincoln highway will be exhibited in North Platte January 17th. There are sixteen thousand feet of this film, and scenes are shown on the highway from New York to San Francisco. Several scenes of North Platte and vicinity will be shown.

Furs Wanted
Bring in your furs to us. We will pay you the highest price. Don't ship them until you see us.

NORTH PLATTE JUNK HOUSE.

The Lady or the Tiger Riddle.
"Perhaps the most interesting thing about 'The Lady or the Tiger'?" Frank R. Stockton once said, "is its great popularity among the savage races. It has been told again and again by the story tellers of Burma. A missionary once told the story to a tribe of Karens in Burma. When she came back a year later the tribe surrounded her and wanted to know if she had found out whether—I cannot answer the question, for I have no earthly idea myself. I have never been able to decide whether the lady or the tiger came out of that door. Yet I must defend myself. People for years have upbraided me for leaving it a mystery. Some used to write me that I had no right to impose upon the good nature of the public in that manner. However, when I started in to write the story I intended to finish it, but it would never let itself be finished. I could not decide, and to this day, I assure you, I know no better than any one else."

Christian Science Monitor.



RESOLVE first, He never fight less time fought.
Resolve two, He never again see Teacher less she Gits on My nerves dretfully. He try being Patient in School.

Resolve three, He never eat another bite after time full. Enuff is enuff for Any Ole persin.

Resolve four, He try to live so as to be elected Some Day as kaptein of Our football team. Its a Honorable Job, and I want to be honorable most always.

Resolve five, He never, never tell stories. The old Bad Man has got it in fer fellers what Fib to their Mawns and Paws.

Resolve six, He not make ugly faces ner laugh at girls Any More. They cant help being Girls. Natcher made em what they are, and Boys should feel sorry for em.

I guess this is enuff for This year. So He ring off and shut up my Resolve book till next year.

A NEW YEAR'S APPEAL.

Prisoners For Debt Used Day to Tell of Their Unfortunate Condition.

The newspapers of a century ago afford ample evidence of the cruelty and futility of one of the laws of the day—namely, the punishment of debt by imprisonment, says Alice Morse Earle. It was an utterly hopeless task for any imprisoned for debt ever to expect to be released save by pardoning, and the sufferings of such prisoners was extreme, as they had no charity funds to draw upon to mitigate the woes and misery, the filth and horror of their surroundings. These unhappy men often chose the opening of the new year—a time of gladness hope to the world in general—to appeal for aid in their utter forlornness, and in the newspapers at the close of the year appeals for help printed through the pity of the publisher of the news sheet, and in early January sometimes humble thanks for gifts from generous citizens. Here is an advertisement from the New York Gazette, January, 1751:

Thrice happy, whose tender Care Relieves the poor Distress'd.

When Troubles compass them around The Lord shall give them Rest.

We, the poor Prisoners confined in the Gaol of the City of New York, do take this publick Opportunity of returning our most humble and hearty Thanks to our generous but unknown Benefactors for relieving us this severe Season when we were almost perished with Cold and Hunger, by sending two Quarters of Beef, one Cord of Wood, Twelve Shillings in Money and three dozen of Loaves of Bread, which was fairly and justly distributed between us. And that God Almighty may give them Health and Happiness in the present Life and Eternal Happiness in the next are the sincere wishes and Desires of THE POOR UNFORTUNATE PRISONERS.

Strange New Year Celebration.
What probably is the strangest New Year's rite is held in the Cevennes mountains, in southern France. At the last evening mass of the old year the herds and flocks of the peasantry are gathered before the portico of the little stone church high up on the mountain side and are blessed by the priest and sprinkled with holy water by the acolyte, who follows him in order that this the sole wealth of the countryside may increase and prosper during the year to come. The sight at the holy hour is wonderful. As the church bell tolls above them the frightened animals bleat and bellow and try madly to escape. First the oxen are blessed, then the cows, next the sheep and lambs and finally the goats and pigs.—Chicago Tribune.

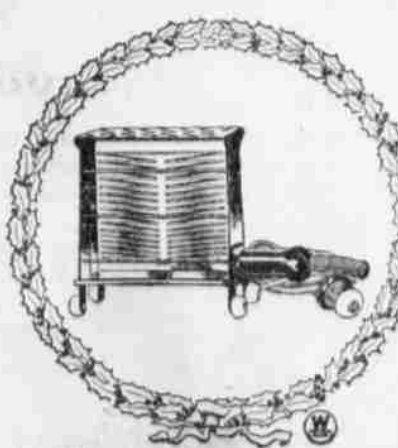
New Year's Day in March.
New Year's day used to fall in March, not in January, and there was a good deal of sense in this, for even as the world's first year was supposed to have begun in the sprouting of leaf and grass, so each New Year's day was set for the season when Nature began to wake after her winter sleep.

Dec. 31.
Best day of all the year, since I May see thee pass and know That if thou dost not leave me high Thou hast not found me low, And since, as I behold thee die, Thou leavest me the right to say That I tomorrow still may vie With them that keep the upward way.

Best day of all the year to me, Since I may stand and gaze Across the grayish past and see So many crooked ways That might have led to misery Or, haply, ended at disgrace; Best day since thou dost leave me free To look the future in the face.

Best day of all days of the year That was so kind, so good, Since thou dost leave me still the dear Old faith in brotherhood; Best day since I, still striving here, May view the past with small regret And, undisturbed by doubt or fear, Seek paths that are untrod as yet.

—Chicago Record-Herald.



Next to the Flat Iron the Toaster

Is the most generally used Electric Appliance. It makes an ideal gift, useful attractive and in

excellent taste. We have styles ranging from \$2.25 up.

North Platte Light & Power Co.